THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III, 33 projects of 2075 km length with a cost of Rs. 12487 crore have been awarded by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), while under NHDP Phase-V, 7 projects of 992 km length at a cost of Rs. 7446 crore have been awarded on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. NHDP Phase-VI aims at development of 1000 km of expressways on PPP mode at an estimated of cost Rs 16680 crore and the projects have not reached the award stage so far. Under NHDP Phase-IVA, feasibility bids for 24 projects for a total length of 2981 km have been invited so far by the Department of Road Transport and Highways/State Governments.

(b) As part of the continuous endeavor to attract private investments, the Government has provided the policy frame work for award of all contracts for provision of road services only on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis for NHDP Phase-III and onwards. In addition to the provision of capital subsidy up to 40% of project cost to make projects viable (Viability Gap Funding), duty free import of high capacity and modern construction equipment and 100% tax exemption in any consecutive 10 years out of 20 years of operations, etc. are available to the investors.

Four-laning of Gandhidham-Mundra Road

1968. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preparation of Feasibility-cum-Preliminary Design Report of Gandhidham-Mundra section and NH-8A (Extn.) has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the four-laning work is likely to be started; and

(c) the present status of the work towards this cause?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the project preparation of feasibility cum Preliminary design report of Gandhidham— Kandla—Mundra section of NH 8A (Extn.) is in progress under NHDP Phase III. The work on BOT basis is likely to be awarded by July, 2009 depending on its viability on BOT basis.

Raising allocation for road projects

†1969. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have demanded to raise budget allocation for the road projects;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that these States have also complained that due to insufficient allocation of budget the target fixed for road construction is not being achieved;

(c) if so, the details of such States;

(d) whether Government, keeping in view the demand of such States, is contemplating to raise the budget allocation for road projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of the National Highways (NHs). The State Government concerned are responsible for roads other than National Highways. There are requests from time to time from many States for enhancing the budgetary allocation for development of NHs entrusted with such States. However, the allocation for NH (Original) Works is made to the States depending upon the condition of the NHs, the works sanctioned for development/improvement of NHs, overall availability of funds and progress of expenditure made from time to time. The targets are also fixed for various development works on NHs as per the availability of the funds. The enhancement of allocation of funds to States for development of NHs is considered subject to enhancement of overall allocation of funds during Revised Estimate (R.E.) stage, progress of expenditure and demands for additional allocations for such States and surrender of funds from other States, if any.

Upgradation of roads in Gujarat

1970. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for upgradation of roads submitted by the State Government of Gujarat during the last five years;

(b) the details of roads upgraded upto December, 2007;

(c) the total expenditure incurred during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) by when the remaining roads are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The proposals for improvement and upgradation of National Highways received from different states including Gujarat are finalised based on the *inter se* priority keeping in view the condition of road, traffic needs and availability of funds etc. Improvement and upgradation of roads is a continuous process. Therefore, the proposals which could not be sanctioned in a year are submitted by the State Government in the subsequent year.